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# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1917

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## THE STATE GEOLOGIST AND CONSERVATION<sup>1</sup>

By conservation now-a-days is meant the best use of our natural resources, without waste. Probably the responsibility of conservation rests more upon the state geologist than any other state official, because he is the one, more than any other, whose duty it is to study and inform the public upon the occurrence, quality, quantity and uses of the natural resources of the state he serves.

### INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES

Natural resources may be divided into two kinds: Those that are inexhaustible and those that are exhaustible. Of the former are such as sand, clay, road materials, building stone and water power. But while these and others are inexhaustible in quantity, they do not occur universally, so may become, and in most places do become, products upon which it is vitally important that the public be informed.

Here it might be well to call attention to the fact that geologists somewhat, and the public to a large extent, lose sight of the common things, in their anxiety to discover and develop the rare ones. Often a bed of shale for brick making, sand for building, gravel for concrete, or limestone for cement, fertilizer, or other purposes, is of more local importance than a bed of coal, iron ore, or some other of the less common products. A bluff of stone may stand unused for years, before some one will see its value, perhaps for railroad ballast or con-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

<sup>1</sup> Read before the American Mining Congress, Chicago, November 16, 1916.